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May 18, 1999 LB 881

pending by Revenue Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Speaker Kristensen, you're recognized to open on LB 881.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 881, I introduced as the Speaker, on behalf of the Governor. There's been a number of people who have signed This deals with the area of property taxation. onto the bill. And this Legislature and the administration now, the new administration, their first attempt in the area of property tax relief. What I'd like to do, because once we get started with the committee amendment, there's other amendments. And a lot of attention is going to be focused this morning about what does this plan do. And, obviously, the committee amendment, I'm not going to explain at this point in time, is the prerogative and the providence of the Revenue Committee and their workings with the Governor. But I want to spend just a few minutes this morning talking about property tax in general and trying to frame what I believe this Legislature has done, and give you some overview of what context this piece fits into. If there's any issue that has dominated the political scene state for a number of years, it's obviously been property tax. The desire for people to have property tax relief without the defining of what is that relief, is that some sort of assistance, is that some sort of limiting of expenditures, is that I just don't like property tax and wish somebody else would And coupled with that is people's desire, but I really want to have control over what I do locally. And we've discussed this issue so many times, but I think we'd be remiss this morning if we did not do it. This Legislature, since 1967, has really taken a tremendous step towards trying to solve property taxes. And perhaps it's the lack of what we want to solve that's caused us the great amount of problem. In this state created a sales and income tax system. They exempted home...household goods from personal property. As you remember at that point in time they came into your homes, made some assessment of what you had for personal property, there was also tangible...intangible property that was taxed, and Legislature exempted that. And, in a novel idea to take over, it wouldn't cost one of our counties a lot of money, there was a municipal university, UNO, which the state took over. The